

On March 22, 2012, Towns County Sheriff's deputies received information from several concerned citizens that possible illegal drugs and paraphernalia were in one of the rooms of a local motel.

Towns County Sheriff's deputies and Towns County's Appalachian Drug Task Force agent, assisted by Hiawassee Police, served a search warrant at that location and discovered multiple plastic baggies of alleged synthetic marijuana (Spice). These items were seized and charges are pending in this case.

Sheriff Chris Clinton stated that the use of these types of drugs is on the rise, as young people think they are a safe alternative to marijuana. However, there have been many cases of drug overdoses and serious medical issues attributed to the use of synthetic marijuana. One of the street names of this category of drugs is known as 'Spice'.

Spice, which may look like ordinary household potpourri, grasses, or stems, commonly contains a 'synthetic' version of THC, intended to mimic the effects of THC, the major illegal component of marijuana. Besides the laboratory produced synthetic THC, spice also contains other sometimes unknown ingredients, many of which are harmful or could even be deadly if consumed by humans. It is illegal to use, possess or distribute any item containing the compound "THC".

If a citizen has concerns or questions about this type drug, they are encouraged to call the Towns County Sheriff's Office at (706) 896-4444.